Thomas A. Edison Papers Digital Edition

Edison-Miller Family Records

Edison-Ford Winter Estates, Fort Myers, Fla.

[X104D-F] Edison, Charles

Edison-Miller Family Papers

Title
[X104D-F] Edison, Charles

Description
These documents consist of undated letters to and from Charles Edison (1890-1969), the elder son of Thomas and Mina Edison. A letter from Charles to his maternal grandmother Mary Valinda Miller, probably written in 1903 or 1904, mentions a tour of the Edison cement works with his father and mother. A letter to his parents, written in the fall of 1909 during Charles's first semester at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, presents his assessment of color photography for motion pictures and his comments upon the popularity of current releases from Pathé, Gaumont, Biograph, and the Edison studio. There is also a handwritten message from Thomas Edison sent from the USS *Sachem* in Key West, giving his approval to his son's marriage to Carolyn Hawkins. The last two items consist of an undated communication from Charles to his mother and a humorous note to an unidentified female recipient.

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Identifier

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Alternative Title

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Is Part Of

Edison-Miller Family Papers

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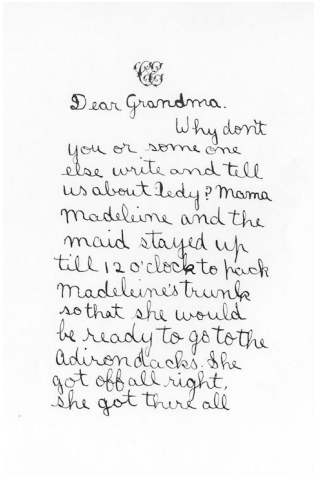

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[X104DA] Letter, 1903-1904

Title
[X104DA] Letter, 1903-1904

Author
Edison, Charles

Recipient
Miller, Mary Valinda (Mrs Lewis)

Mentioned

- Edison Cement Works (Stewartsville)
- Edison, Madeleine
- Edison, Theodore Miller
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- McCarthy, Lena, (Mrs Michael Doyle)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1903-1904

Type
Letter

Subject
Edison-Miller family

Folder ID
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Document ID
X104DA

URL
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Timestamp
1 January 1903

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Dear Grandma.

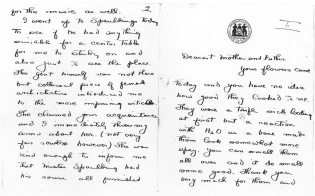
Why don't you or some one else write and tell us about Ledy? Mama Madeleine and the maid stayed up till 12 o'clock to pack Madeleine's trunk so that she would be ready to go to the Adirondacks. She got off all right, she got there all

right, so I guess she is all right. Mama and I went down to the Cement Plant on Saturday morning to bring papa back in the evening. Papa took us all through the mill and we had a fine day. They have two 1000 hoarse power engins there which were immense. Underneath the mill there is a sort tunnel a quarter of a mile long which is the length of the mill. It is the largest mill of its kind in the world. It has been raining in fits all afternoon so I have been fixing up my new room and mama has been reading. The men are very slow with the dinning room so not much has been done. Well I guess I must stop. Kiss every body and as I send oceans of love you must give it around.

Give Baby a lot and
keep a lot yourself.

Charles

P.S.
This Is The Longest
Letter I Ever Wrote.



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[X104DB], Letter from Charles Edison to Thomas Alva Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, 1909

Title
[X104DB], Letter from Charles Edison to Thomas Alva Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, 1909

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Edison, Charles

Recipient

- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Mentioned

- Edison Manufacturing Co
- Biograph Co
- Gaumont Co
- Pathe Freres

Date
1909-00-00

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Motion pictures
- Motion picture performers

Folder ID
X104D-F

Document ID
X104DB

URL
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Timestamp
1 January 1909

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1.

Dearest Mother and Father.

Your flowers came today and you have no idea how good they looked to me. They were a trifle sick looking at first but a reaction with H_2O as a base made them look somewhat more okay. You can smell them all over and it do smell some good. Thank you very much for them and

2.

for the music as well.

I went up to Spaulding's today to see if he had anything suitable for a center Table for me to study on and also just to see the place. The gent himself was not there but colossal piece of female architecture introduced me to the more imposing article. She claimed your acquaintance and I immediately threw my arms about her. (not very far sooth however) She was kind enough to inform me that Mister Spaulding had his house all furnished

and might have just the piece I was looking for. I assured her I would never in the world think of dismantling Mrs Spauldings house and then sought refuge on the street before she had time to persuade me into buying a bible or a china pig or something. Money trickles away quite easily without lubricating the process by spending fifteen or twenty bucks on a forty seventh hand degenerate bible. However I did think of investing in the most divine reproduction of a cat the other day to use as a christmas present, but when the bluster of hopes emitted a noise like twelve dollars, I came about. I told him I did not have use for the whole of Boston but merely wanted half a dozen blocks or so here and there.

As I was saying before, a great many moving pictures have been stimulated by my presence (I don't know how to spell ↗ so I will leave it that way) and I have had considerable opportunity to compare the different makes.

these usually over act, but they don't furnish them with decent parts. However they have the bulge on all the others in coloring. The colored pictures, tho not perfect, are exceedingly good. Especially the street and city scenes. You would think that it was a great advantage and I suppose it is but the pictures didn't seem to please more than the uncolored ones. People don't want to see effects so much as they want to see a good live story with good people in the cast. The firm that I always enjoy is the American Biograph Co. They have a kind of distinctive quality

Down home, I remember, nearly all the pictures were Pathé Freres but that is not so here. I dope it out that Pathé is devoting most of the energy of the concern to make novelties, and neglecting the plot part. Most of the plots have been stupid and uninteresting. Precocious children doing tricks on people etc. They are getting well known actors - and these are usually good - and actresses - and

that makes it quite easy to pick out a Biograph picture without seeing there name. Primarily, the plot is always good, I have never been disappointed. They are usually a light and quite often a heavy tragedy but always natural. The comedies are really funny and never objectionable. So much for the plots. The thing that seems to please most – at least that causes most comment – are the actors + actresses. They have one girl that is a wonder. She is not so much on looks but can take any part from a princess to a trained clam with equal success. The other one is a very young, little doll who always does her part well and whenever either one of these two come on you hear all around – There she is – Thats the one – how about it? or similar expressions of appreciation. The actors are very good too which is not the case with the majority. Most of the many picture men look like lost chords but the Biograph Gourmont + ours look as is they ate three meals a day

most of the pictures.
Our pictures usually take well
The one on Why Girls Leave
home was very popular and
Dashed to death also in a
different way. The first part
of the latter was disgustingly
slagy and absolutely unnatural
If you dont believe it go &
see it. The ambitious father
moseys in and sits down
in a frightfully uncomfortable
manner and a servant comes
tearing in with a letter and
as soon as he goes out
a maid comes in from the
other door with another
letter. She tears out & he
prances up & down - oh well
go & see it & you will know

III

Another thing about the Biograph
pictures, the action is never
hurried, and there is never
any horse play in the ones
I have seen. The pictures
all impress you as being
scenes taken from real life
when the actors
did not know about it. When
you see (A B) come up it
is like spending a few
minutes with old friends. I
think that is a point that
must not be forgotten or
overlooked. Get a good company
and stick to that company for

write about them if you would care to have me.

I only get one day off at Thanksgiving so perhaps it is rather useless for me to come home. I will come saturday instead when I can see every body unless there is something special going on.

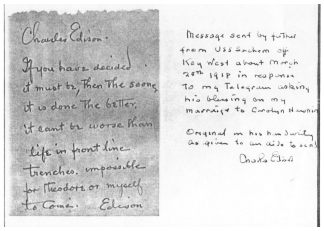
Well good night. I must do some miserable trig. that stuff is a nuisance.

With all manner of love

C. E.

IV

a stray picture or two but it seems to me if we combine the color effects of Pathé and Gaumont, the ability of the Biograph cast & their clearness of action and our own good points there will be a very acceptable product. It seems to me too that a firm should have very pronounced characteristics to ever amount to much. That is about all I can think of just now but do points come up I will



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[X104DC], Letter from Thomas Alva Edison to Charles Edison, March 25th, 1918

Title
[X104DC], Letter from Thomas Alva Edison to Charles Edison, March 25th, 1918

Editor's Notes
Supplied year, month, and day

Author
Edison, Thomas Alva

Recipient
Edison, Charles

Mentioned

- Edison, Theodore Miller
- Edison, Carolyn Hawkins (Mrs Charles)

Date
1918-03-25

Type
Letter

Subject
Edison-Miller family

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Timestamp
25 March 1918

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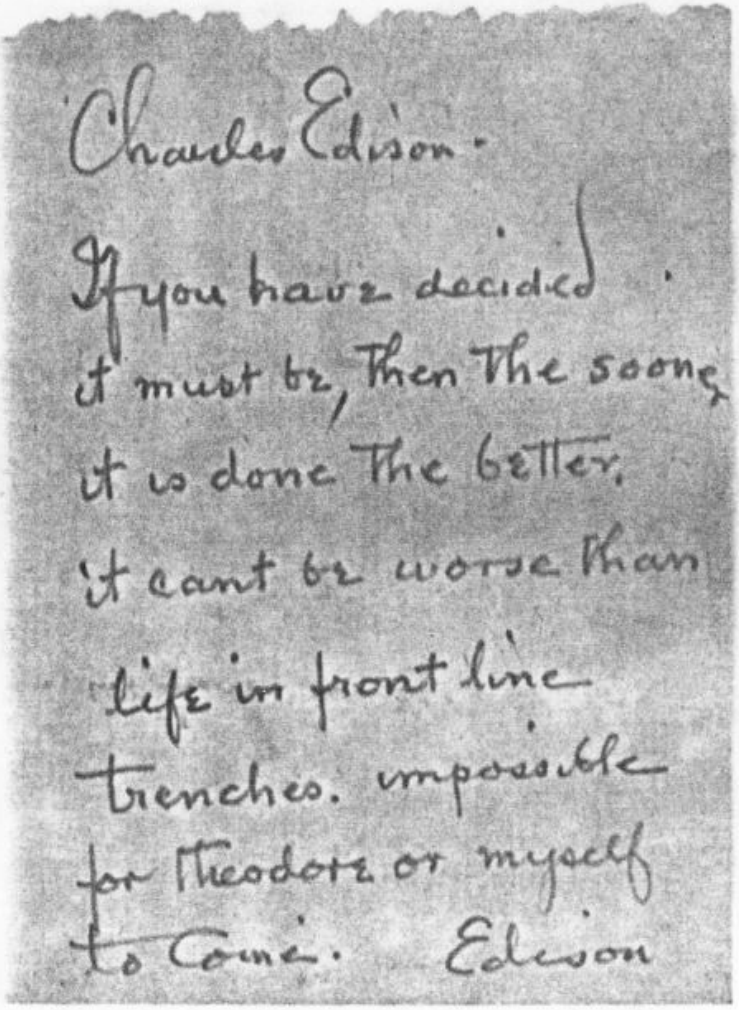


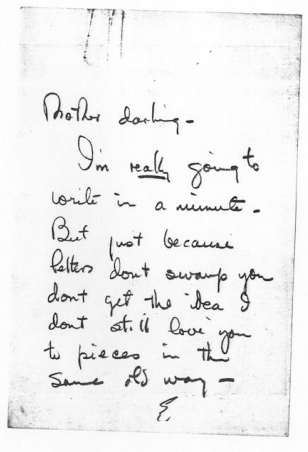
Charles Edison.

If you have decided
it must be, Then the soonr
it is done The better.
it cant be worse than
life in front line
trenches. impossible
for Theodore or myself
to come. Edison

Message sent by father
from USS Sachem off
Key West about March
25th 1918 in response
To my Telegram asking
his blessing on my
marriage to Carolyn Hawkin

Original in his handwriting
as given to an aide to send

Charles Edison



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[X104GC] Letter, Undated

Title
[X104GC] Letter, Undated

Author
Edison, Charles

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Type
Letter

Subject
Edison-Miller family

Folder ID
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Document ID
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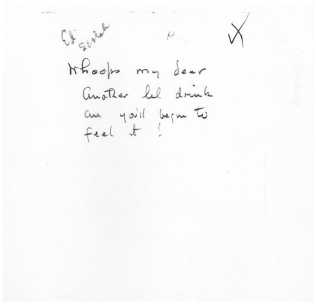
Mother darling -

I'm really going to write in a minute - But just because letters don't swamp you don't get the idea I don't still love you to pieces in the same old way -

E.



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[X104GD] Letter, Undated

Title
[X104GD] Letter, Undated

Author
Edison, Charles

Recipient
Unknown

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Social customs, norms, values

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Oh sister

Whoops my dear
Another lil drink
an y'all begin to
feel it !